

participation by small business concerns in the SBIR program, are at a competitive disadvantage in establishing a business climate that is conducive to technology development; and

“(3) building stronger national, State, and local support for science and technology research in these disadvantaged States will expand economic opportunities in the United States, create jobs, and increase the competitiveness of the United States in the world market.”

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 657e of this title.

### § 657e. Mentoring Networks

#### (a) Findings

Congress finds that—

(1) the SBIR and STTR programs create jobs, increase capacity for technological innovation, and boost international competitiveness;

(2) increasing the quantity of applications from all States to the SBIR and STTR programs would enhance competition for such awards and the quality of the completed projects; and

(3) mentoring is a natural complement to the FAST program of reaching out to new companies regarding the SBIR and STTR programs as an effective and low-cost way to improve the likelihood that such companies will succeed in such programs in developing and commercializing their research.

#### (b) Authorization for Mentoring Networks

The recipient of an award or participant in a cooperative agreement under section 657d of this title may use a reasonable amount of such assistance for the establishment of a Mentoring Network under this section.

#### (c) Criteria for Mentoring Networks

A Mentoring Network established using assistance under section 657d of this title shall—

(1) provide business advice and counseling to high technology small business concerns located in the State or region served by the Mentoring Network and identified under section 657d(c)(1)(E)(ii) of this title as potential candidates for the SBIR or STTR programs;

(2) identify volunteer mentors who—

(A) are persons associated with a small business concern that has successfully completed one or more SBIR or STTR funding agreements; and

(B) have agreed to guide small business concerns through all stages of the SBIR or STTR program process, including providing assistance relating to—

- (i) proposal writing;
- (ii) marketing;
- (iii) Government accounting;
- (iv) Government audits;
- (v) project facilities and equipment;
- (vi) human resources;
- (vii) third phase partners;
- (viii) commercialization;
- (ix) venture capital networking; and
- (x) other matters relevant to the SBIR and STTR programs;

(3) have experience working with small business concerns participating in the SBIR and STTR programs;

(4) contribute information to the national database referred to in subsection (d) of this section; and

(5) agree to reimburse volunteer mentors for out-of-pocket expenses related to service as a mentor under this section.

#### (d) Mentoring database

The Administrator shall—

(1) include in the database required by section 638(k)(1) of this title, in cooperation with the SBIR, STTR, and FAST programs, information on Mentoring Networks and mentors participating under this section, including a description of their areas of expertise;

(2) work cooperatively with Mentoring Networks to maintain and update the database;

(3) take such action as may be necessary to aggressively promote Mentoring Networks under this section; and

(4) fulfill the requirements of this subsection either directly or by contract.

(Pub. L. 85-536, §2[35], as added Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(9) [title I, §112], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-680.)

#### SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 638, 657d of this title.

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## SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 661. Congressional declaration of policy**

It is declared to be the policy of the Congress and the purpose of this chapter to improve and stimulate the national economy in general and the small-business segment thereof in particular by establishing a program to stimulate and supplement the flow of private equity capital and long-term loan funds which small-business concerns need for the sound financing of their business operations and for their growth, expansion, and modernization, and which are not available in adequate supply: *Provided, however*, That this policy shall be carried out in such manner as to insure the maximum participation of private financing sources.

It is the intention of the Congress that the provisions of this chapter shall be so administered that any financial assistance provided hereunder shall not result in a substantial increase of unemployment in any area of the country. It is the intention of the Congress that in the award of financial assistance under this chapter, when practicable, priority be accorded to small business concerns which lease or purchase equipment and supplies which are produced in the United States and that small business concerns receiving such assistance be encouraged to continue to lease or purchase such equipment and supplies.

(Pub. L. 85-699, title I, §102, Aug. 21, 1958, 72 Stat. 689; Pub. L. 102-366, title IV, §416, Sept. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 1019.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 85-699, which enacted this chapter, amended sections 77c, 77ddd, 80a-18, 633 and 636 of this title, and sections 217 [now 212], 218 [now 213], 221 [now 216], 657, 1006 and 1014 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, repealed section 352a of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and enacted notes set out under this section and section 352a of Title 12. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-366 inserted at end “It is the intention of the Congress that in the award of financial assistance under this chapter, when practicable, priority be accorded to small business concerns which lease or purchase equipment and supplies which are produced in the United States and that small business concerns receiving such assistance be encouraged to continue to lease or purchase such equipment and supplies.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(8) [§1(a)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-653, provided that: “This section [enacting part B of subchapter III of this chapter, amending section 683 of this title, section 109 of Title 11, Bankruptcy, and section 1464 of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 631 of this title] may be cited as the ‘New Markets Venture Capital Program Act of 2000’.”

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(9) [title III, §301], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-684, provided that: “This title [enacting section 697g of this title, amending sections 695 to 697 and 697e of this title, enacting provisions set out as a note under section 697g of this title, and repealing provisions set out as a note under section 697e of this title] may be cited as the ‘Certified Development Company Program Improvements Act of 2000’.”

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(9) [title IV, §401], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-690, provided that: “This title [amending sections 662, 682, 683, and 687b of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Corrections Act of 2000’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-9, §1, Apr. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 17, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 662, 683, 687, and 687m of this title and provisions set out as notes under this section and section 631 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Improvement Act of 1999’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-403, title V, §501, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4198, provided that: “This title [enacting section 697f of this title and provisions set out as a note under section 697f of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Prepayment Penalty Relief Act of 1994’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Section 401 of title IV of Pub. L. 102-366 provided that: “This Act [probably means “This title”, amending this section and sections 662, 682, 683, 685 to 687, 687b, and 687l of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 681 and 687b of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 631 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Equity Enhancement Act of 1992’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-590, title II, §201, Nov. 3, 1988, 102 Stat. 3007, provided that: “This title [amending sections 694b and 694c of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 694b of this title] may be cited as the ‘Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program Act of 1988’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1972 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 92-595, Oct. 27, 1972, 86 Stat. 1314, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 687i and 687j of this title and amending sections 80a-18, 633, 636, 662, 681, 683, 684, and 686 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1972’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Section 201 of Pub. L. 90-104, title II, Oct. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 269, provided that: “This title [amending sections 681, 682, 683, 684, 686, 687, 687b, and 692 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1967’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1966 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 89-779, Nov. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 1359, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 687e, 687f, 687g, and 687h of this title and amending sections 633, 671, 687, 687a, 687b, and 687c of this title, and sections 5315 and 5316 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1966’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 88-273, Feb. 28, 1964, 78 Stat. 146, provided: “That this Act [enacting section 687d and amending sections 682, 686, and 687 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1963’.”

## SHORT TITLE OF 1961 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 87-341, Oct. 3, 1961, 75 Stat. 752, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 687a, 687b, and 687c of this title, amending sections 633, 662, 681, 683 to 687, and 696 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 631 and 686 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1961’.”